But what did the Sultan do? Did he carry out his vow of revenge? No, the example of the Prophet, got the better of his vow. He allowed the defeated Christians to leave the city on the payment of a nominal ransom, which was remitted afterwards, the Sultan paying most of the money from his own pocket and the Sultan's brother the remaining part from his own.

In showing mercy to these people who had deliberately and consistently persecuted the Muslims the Sultan as has been said above had followed the example of the Prophet of Islam. As the Christians have no such exampler to follow they have mostly failed on such occasions to give a good account of themselves, but have always committed excesses which are indelible blots on the history of their relations with the followers of other religions.

STORY 84.

SULTAN MUHMUD AND ABU HASSAN OF KHARQUAN.

SULTAN MAHMUD was the greatest conquerer of his age. With all his greatness he longed for the society of the saint of Kharquan.

Accordingly one day he sent him word that he would be very much obliged if the saint took the trouble of visiting him, at his palace. But the saint excused himself saying that he had nothing to do with palaces and their occupants and wanted to be left alone. Upon this Mahumd's desire to see him became still stronger, and accompanied by a large retinue he took his way to Kharquan and entered the hermitage of Abul Hassan.

The saint received him as he would have received an ordinary Muslim, without showing any extraordinary respect. They remained talking for sometime, and Mahmud was greatly touched by what the saint said by way of advice, the substance of which is as follows.

"Mahmud! Bear four things in mind, (1) Offer prayer in congregation. (2) Avoid acts forbidden by Islam. (3) Be generous. (4) Be kind to all God's creatures."

When Mahmud was about to take leave he placed a purse full of gold pieces at the saint's feet and begged him to accept it. But the saint produced a loaf of barley which was what he lived